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UNCLAS KUWAIT 003969

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SUBJECT: KUWAIT NO LONGER WILL PERMIT ENTRY OF IRAQIS
WITHOUT VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

1. On August 26, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammed al-Sabah told Charge that Kuwait would no longer permit the entry of Iraqis who do not have valid travel documents. Kuwaiti law requires that all aliens entering the country have valid passports. In recent weeks, several USG sponsored Iraqi travelers transiting Kuwait enroute to the United States have not had valid passports. The Kuwaitis authorized entry in those cases, but with obvious and increasing discomfort.
2. The Charge informed a Ministry representative today that the Coalition Provisional Authority does not issue travel documents at this time. He asked whether the ban on entry by Iraqis without valid travel documents applied to members of the Iraqi Governing Council (GC), noting that two GC members wish to enter Kuwait in mid-September enroute to a conference in Washington and do not have valid passports. The Ministry representative requested the names and agreed to look into the matter.
3. COMMENT. Kuwait's decision to no longer permit entry of Iraqis without valid travel documents is the most recent manifestation of the country's concern about the security of its borders and the integrity of its customs and immigration procedures vis--vis Iraq. We will report the Ministry's response concerning GC members without travel documents as soon as it is received. END COMMENT.

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